



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 202

September 2012

On This Date-150 Years Ago

September, 1862

The morning reports of the Battery for this month make no bones about what was going on—the Union Army was pursuing the Confederates through Tennessee and Kentucky.

(Numbers indicate the day of the month)

- 1 Marched 15 miles
- 2 Marched 16 Miles
- 3 Murfreesboro
- 4 Marched 14 Miles toward Nashville
- 5 Marched 13 " " "
- 6 " " "
- 8 Broke Camp and marched through Nashville to camp on east side of Cumberland river -- 3 miles
- 11 Marched to junction of Louisville & Clarksville Rail Roads --9 Miles
- 12 " to Tyre Springs on road to Bowling Green 16 "
- 13 " to Camp, 20 "
- 14 " " " " "
- 15 " " " near Bowling Green, 13 "
- 17 Marched toward Louisville, 9 miles
- 18 " " " 15 "
- 19 " " " 7 "
- 22 Marched to Camp near Munfordsville, 17 Miles
- 23 " " " Elizabethtown, 20 "
- 24 " " West Point, 18 "
- 25 Crossed Salt river at its mouth and marched to camp near Louisville 20 M
- 26 Marched to camp in Louisville 4 "
- 27 Lt. Woodbury arrived in Camp from Recruiting Service with 26 Recruits
- 29 Notified of the death of E. Briggs & John Stockton

Disease and discharges had reduced the Battery's strength by mid summer of 1862, so Lt. Woodbury had been sent back to Minnesota to do some recruiting. Most of the new recruits came from his home area of Anoka County and they arrived at the Battery's camp a little more than a week before these new men were thrown into the battle at Perryville. One has to wonder if these “fresh fish” had much time to train before the battle started?

Upcoming Events

September 15 Encampment at Anderson Center—Red Wing, MN

This event at the Arts Center in Red Wing will see hundreds (perhaps even 1000s) of people in this single day! The event site is open to the public from noon to 5:00, so **plan to arrive by 10:30 for set up**. There is only one entrance to the site, so plan for that to be busy. There should be food for purchase on site or you may want to bring your own, but please try to keep it period correct if at all possible. This is a great opportunity to get our story out to a large crowd and make a real impact with history. For more info, contact John Cain.

Newest Battery Member!

Tristan Alexander Overby arrived on Tuesday, August 14, at 7:48 pm. He was 19 inches long and weighed 5 lbs, 3 oz. He had to stay in the hospital a couple extra days, but he and



his parents, Jay and Stacy, are at home and doing well.

As of last report, Tristan is gaining an ounce a day, so he has the eating thing figured out. He'll fit right in with our Battery boys in a very a short time!

Next Meeting

Saturday, September 29, 11:00 a.m.
Marie's Casual Dining in Red Wing.



Battery Profile

James Green

James Green was born in Bridgewater, Somersetshire, England, on March 7, 1840. He came to American when he was about 14 years old and worked at various trades in New York. He went west and settled in Detroit, Michigan, for two years, working on a steamboat line running between Buffalo and Chicago. He moved west again and began working in the butcher business and at his trade of carpenter in the town of Little Falls, Minnesota. In 1858, he bought a piece of land in section eight of Swan River Township, Morrison County, and began farming.

James was one of the early enlistee's into the Battery, being mustered in on January 28, 1862. He was single, had hazel eyes, light hair and a light complexion. He stood 5' 3-1/4" tall. His time in the Battery was cut short by an injury. He was discharged at the Hospital in Keokuk, Iowa, on November 6, 1862. The reason for his discharge stated a bale of hay fell on him, causing a "rupture between the stomach and navel". The official term was "Ventral Hernia".

At the time of his discharge, a clothing list was prepared detailing how much clothing he had received and its value.

One Cap	\$.65
2 Sack Coats	5.30
1 Pr. Pants	4.25
2 Shirts	3.14
2 Pr. Drawers	2.00
2 " Stockings	.70
1 Blanket	3.60
Total:	\$19.54

James came back to Minnesota and his farm in Swan River and married Amelia Bailey from Missouri in 1868. They had four children.

James was working near his farm in September of 1895 when a large bear was spotted. He shot the bear and when dressed out, it weighed nearly 400 pounds. It was said that the bear was very fat, having fed on the sheep belonging to James and other neighbors for the past month or more. James sold the bear and it was taken to the St. Paul markets.

James was receiving a pension of \$10 a month in 1883 for his injuries sustained during the war. In 1907, James moved off the farm and lived with his son, Alfred, in the city of Little Falls. James died of old age and "valvular heart disease" on April 6, 1915. He was buried in the Oakland Cemetery, Little Falls, Morrison County, Minnesota.



Keith and Elaine Hedlund

We had a very special pair of visitors stop by our camp at Pipestone. For months, we had been corresponding with a descendant of Battery men, brothers Alexander and William Kinkead. Elaine is the blood descendant, and her husband, Keith, worked on the family research.

Alex was buried in a cemetery that had been abandoned in Ventura, California. With Keith and Elaine being family, they were able to get Alex's grave marked in the new Memorial Park that is taking the place of the cemetery. (The original cemetery was pretty much bulldozed sometime about the 1960s and it was just a patch of empty space until the Memorial Park was established.)

Keith and Elaine live in Colorado, but were in Minnesota to visit Keith's brother. On their way home, they made a point to stop at the Pipestone to find the Second Minnesota Battery after seeing our Facebook post about attending the event.

We were honored to meet them and so grateful for their help in getting Alex's grave marked!

Some Quick Facts about the Battle of Perryville, Kentucky

October 8, 1862

Like many Civil War battles, this battle has more than one name, Perryville or Chaplin Hill. It takes its names from the nearby town of Perryville or from the stream that flows through the town, Chaplin River.

The Town

The history of this small town starts with a fort built on the banks of the Chaplin River. It was known as Harbeson's Station, settled during the final stages of the American Revolution. The fort was founded by James Harbeson and a group of settlers from Virginia. They strategically placed the fort near a cave and spring. When troubles with local Indians arose, they fled across the water and into the cave to seek shelter from attack. The cave, which can still be viewed today, formed the settlers' first line of defense.

Shortly after the War of 1812, two men named Edward Bullock and William Hall organized plans to build a village along the river near the original fort. Bullock and Hall named the village Perryville in honor of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, hero of the Battle of Lake Erie. In the late 1830s, a line of buildings next to the Chaplin River formed the basis of the village of Perryville. Now called "Merchants' Row," these buildings still stand and house small shops and offices.

The early nineteenth century brought an interest in classical education for the small town. Many institutions of higher learning, mostly all-women's colleges, were established, including the Ewing Institute, the Elmwood Academy, and Harmonia College. One of Harmonia College's graduates achieved national prominence—she was Carrie Nation, the national temperance leader, who boarded at the Karrick-Parks house while living in Perryville. As Nation "cleaned out" a number of local spots, it is believed that Perryville became the first location in the United States to exercise Local Option laws. A "local option" is the ability of local political jurisdictions, typically counties or municipalities, to allow decisions on certain controversial issues based on popular vote within their borders. In practice, local option usually relates to the issue of alcoholic beverage sales.

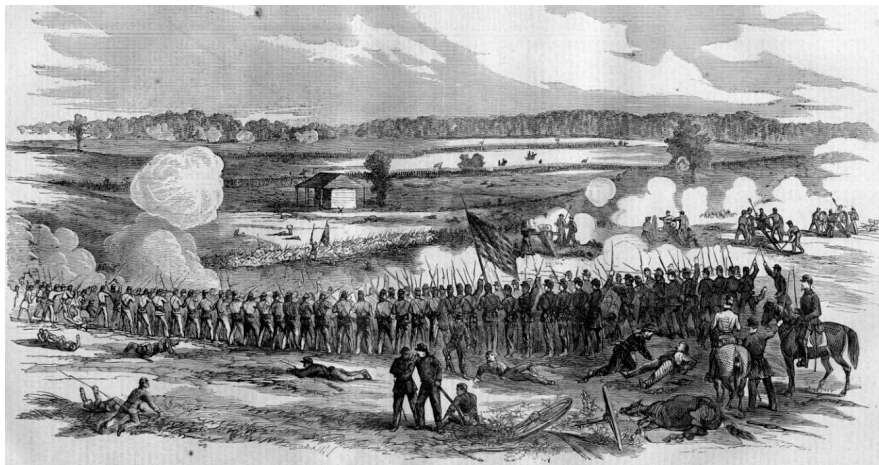
In October 1862, the fields west of town were where Union and Confederate forces clashed. The Perryville Battlefield is preserved as a state park. In 1961, Perryville and the surrounding area was made part of a National Historic Landmark area. In 1973, the entire town of Perryville, because of the contribution the village has made toward American history, was put on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2012, the population of Perryville was 751.

The Battle

Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg's autumn 1862 invasion of Kentucky had reached the outskirts of Louisville and Cincinnati, but he was forced to retreat and regroup. On October 7, the Federal army of Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell, numbering nearly 55,000, converged on the small crossroads town of Perryville, Kentucky, in three columns. Union forces first skirmished with Rebel cavalry on the Springfield Pike before the fighting became more general, on Peters Hill, as the Confederate infantry arrived. The next day, at dawn, fighting began again around Peters Hill as a Union division advanced up the pike, halting just before the Confederate line. The fighting then stopped for a time.

After noon, a Confederate division struck the Union left flank and forced it to fall back. When more Confederate divisions joined the fray, the Union line made a stubborn stand, counterattacked, but finally fell back with some troops routed. Buell did not know of the happenings on the field, or he would certainly have sent forward reserves. Even so, the Union troops on the left flank, reinforced by two brigades, stabilized their line, and the Rebel attack sputtered to a halt. Later, a Rebel brigade assaulted the Union division on the Springfield Pike, but was repulsed and fell back into Perryville. The Yankees pursued, and skirmishing occurred in the streets in the evening before dark. Union reinforcements were threatening the Rebel left flank by now. Bragg, short of men and supplies, withdrew during the night, and, after pausing at Harrodsburg, continued the Confederate retreat by way of Cumberland Gap into East Tennessee. The Confederate offensive was over, and the Union controlled Kentucky.

The battle at Perryville was considered a Union strategic victory. There were 7,407 casualties of which 4,211 were Union soldiers.



(This description is from the CWSAC Battle Summaries)

Recap

August 11-12 Reenactment, Pipestone, MN

Battery members attending this event were not sure we were in the right place as the weather was not scorching hot! Both days were very pleasant except for a little drizzle on Saturday evening and Sunday morning was almost cold. And we packed up dry canvas! As a change-up, the Union camp was down below near the back side of the event arena and the Confederates (who complained that they always were down on the bottom and never got a breeze to cool them off) were on the high ground near the visitor entrance. The breeze we thought cool on Sunday was whipping and cold up on top, so it would appear the Confederates chose the wrong year to trade places.

Our gun was one of two Union guns and, according to the script, saw our gun crew "die" defending the piece as the Confederates won Saturday's battle. Sunday was the Union's turn to win and our boys did valiant service in support of the infantry. Sunday morning did catch our boys sleeping when the Confederates mounted an early morning attack on the Union camp. Only Corporal Graves made it out of bed and then only in time to surrender.



We met a couple of National Park rangers from the Pipestone Monument on Saturday, invited them for supper and they joined us to watch the battle on Sunday. It was a first for them and it was great fun sharing our history with them.

August 25-26, Ahlman's

As always, this is a wild event where anything in the way of guns goes! The weather was a bit warm, but not bad and there were lots of spectators. We have bleachers now where our gun drills and firing take place, so there is room for many people to watch and learn.



At each drill, members of the gun crew step forward to explain what piece of equipment they have, how it is used and what it does. This makes drills last nearly half an hour, but each is a valuable lesson for the public and far more effective than a simple "big bang."

The Second Minnesota Light Artillery Battery is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Civil War history by living it.

Membership is \$12 per year. Non-member newsletter subscription rate is \$6.00 per year.

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We pared down on "camp" equipment since the only real attraction for people tends to be the gun. Those who stayed overnight slept in the house instead of tents and cooking was limited—especially since we are invited to the big barbeque for all the participants on Saturday evening. Miss Becky attended



as the sole lady from the 1860s and she talked to people about her Civil War quilting projects.